

4. The cost on account of the Stores Purchase Committee and the London Agency up to the end of June 1924 amounted to Rs. 7,317-11-0 and Rs. 18,561-9-0 respectively which works out to 2.5 per cent of the total value of the orders placed. Government trust that as a result of the increasing volume of work and larger orders being placed, this incidence which is rather high will be reduced.

5. Government are pleased to place on record their appreciation of the work of the Committee in the first year of its existence.

6. The annual report of the work of the Committee may in future be submitted to Government not later than the 31st August each year succeeding the year of report.

K. MATTHAN,

Chief Secretary to Government.

LOCAL AND LEGISLATIVE SECRETARIAT.

Registration Department.

READ—

Letter No. Per. 18-23-24, dated 30th September 1924, from the Inspector-General of Registration, submitting a report on the working of the Registration Department during the year 1923-24.

2. Correspondence ending with letter No. Per. 18-23-24, dated 5th November 1924, from the same officer, furnishing additional information regarding inspections and prosecutions during the year.

ORDER NO. P. 2906-15—REGIS. 22-24-5, DATED 6TH DECEMBER 1924.

Recorded.

2. Mr. A. Subramania Iyer was in charge of the office of the Inspector-General of Registration till 31st March 1924 and Mr. V. R. Thyagaraja Aiyar during the rest of the year.

3. Government observe that there has been a steady fall in the total number of registrations as well as in the income for the past three years since 1921-22. This is attributed by the several District Registrars and the Inspector-General of Registration to the unfavourable seasonal conditions, tightness of money market, depression of trade, investments of money in State Loan Bonds and Joint Stock Companies and the prevalence of plague, cholera, and relapsing fever in some places. The same reasons were assigned in the Administration Report of the year 1922-23 and the Government did not accept them. The additional ground assigned by the Inspector-General of Registration this year that the operations of the Co-operative Societies have contributed to the decrease is not also quite satisfactory as the loss in revenue on this account is not very considerable. While the recent enhancement of the scheduled rates of stamps and court fees has produced increased revenue under these heads, it is observed that the increase in the table of registration fees has not tended to raise the income under this head as anticipated, but has resulted in a reduction of the income. The Inspector-General is requested to go into the question and submit a report in the matter after necessary investigation.

4. Orders were issued during the year under review splitting up the Bangalore Sub-Registrar's Office into two offices, one exclusively for the City Municipal limits of Bangalore and the other for the Bangalore Taluk excluding the City, the additional cost involved thereby being met by the conversion of the Special Sub-Registry offices at Sagar and Mudgere into *ex-officio* ones with effect from 1st July 1924.

5. No prosecutions for the infringement of the provisions of the Registration Regulation were instituted during the year. The only case of false personation in the Channagiri Sub-Registrar's Office pending from the previous year ended in conviction.

6. Government are glad to note that the inspection work during the year was satisfactory, all the Sub-Registry Offices having been inspected by one or other of the

several Inspecting Officers, and the Inspector-General of Registration having inspected twenty-four Sub-Registry Offices against only two in the previous year. All the District Registry Offices except the one at Hassan were inspected by the Inspector-General during the year.

7. The Inspector-General of Registration is requested to address the Government separately on the revision of the pay and prospects of the clerks of the District Registrar's Offices referred to in the last paragraph of his report.

B. NAGAPPA,
*Secretary to Government,
Local and Legislative Departments.*

Merchandise Marks Regulation.

READ—

Reports from District Magistrates of Districts on the result of the inspection of piece goods with respect to the working of the Merchandise Marks Regulation and the rules thereunder during the year 1923-24.

ORDER No. P. 3030-37—LEGIS. 5-24-9, DATED 12TH DECEMBER 1924.

Recorded.

2. During the year under report, 239 shops were inspected and 532 pieces examined. In the course of examination, the trade description on the goods was found to exceed the actual length by more than the variations allowed under the rules only in 29 cases.

3. There were no prosecutions under the Regulation during the year under report.

B. NAGAPPA,
*Secretary to Government,
Local and Legislative Departments.*

REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Decentralization of Powers.

READ—

Government Order No. 1812-21—Muz. 332-22-10, dated the 14th June 1924, appointing a mixed Committee of Officials and non-officials with the Muzrai Commissioner as Chairman to consider and report upon (1) the formation of Taluk and District Committees, (2) the further decentralization of the powers and duties of the Muzrai Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners, and (3) the revision of the present rules defining the powers and duties of the Dharmadarsis.

2. Letter No. C. 1211 of 1923-24, dated the 22nd September 1924, from the Muzrai Commissioner in Mysore, forwarding the Resolutions of the Committee (printed as annexure) with his own views thereon.

ORDER No. 770-81—MUZ. 80-24-2, DATED 28TH NOVEMBER 1924.

Government in their Order No. 1812-21—Muz. 332-22-10, dated the 14th June 1924, referred the undermentioned questions to the Committee for consideration:—

1. The formation of District and Taluk Committees to help local Muzrai Officers in the administration of Muzrai Institutions in their charge.

2. The decentralization of powers to the Muzrai Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners.

3. Revision of the rules regarding powers and duties of Dharmadarsis.

2. As regards the formation of District and Taluk Committees, the Committee observe that having regard to the complexity and divergencies of creeds and persuasions that will have to be represented in these Committees if all the Muzrai Institutions in a Taluk or District are to be placed under their control and the difficulty of drawing up elaborate rules, the appointment of such Committees is not desirable, especially as an advisory body of Dharmadarsis is appointed for each institution or group of institutions of any importance. The Committee add that, if Committees are to be appointed, only District Committees should be constituted on which representation should be given to interests and not to institutions and that Mathas and Makhans